

PROPOSAL

To prevent the

Further Growth of Popery.

Heartily recommended to every *True Protestant.*

By a Lover of his Country.

*Si quid novisti rectius istis
Cadidus imperti : si non, his utere mecum.*

Hor.



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A

Modest *and* Rational
P R O J E C T, &c.

SINCE it is an avowed Maxim, That difference in Religion is dangerous to the State, as well as the Church, and often produces violent Convulsions in one and t'other, which are by so much the more dreadful, as the Evil is more general, the blinded Passion of fiery Zealots more violent, and the Consequences more fatal, ending often in the Subversion of the best of Governments: Let it therefore be allowed me, not as a Politician. but as a faithful Subject of his present

Majesty King GEORGE,
to offer a Scheme, which, if thought seasonable, and duly executed, would change the present dangerous
State

State of *Popery* in *Ireland*, put a stop to its Progress, open the Eyes of its deluded Abettors, and render the laudable Endeavours of our Zealous Ancestors more successful than hitherto they have been.

I. It being inconsistent with the generous Sentiments of Protestants, and the very Principles of our Holy Religion, to persecute or force tender Consciences; or, which is worse, to gain over a dangerous Tribe of hypocritical Profelytes; let no Number of Papists, or Popish Priests, be allowed by Law, 'till they have first abjured their damnable Doctrine of Sedition, false Oaths, Murder, Dispensations, Pope's Bulls of Indulgences for Massacres, and the diabolical Inquisition.

II. That all such as refuse to give this reasonable Satisfaction to the Government, be counted seditiously and rebelliously inclin'd, Jesuits, or Regulars, to all Intents and Purposes.

III. That for the Benefit of honest and moderate Papists, as well as for the Encouragement of Morality, as also to prevent our Throats being cut, and our Cattle or Goods being plundered, a certain Number of Priests be allowed as may be thought sufficient, excepting *Hispanolized* Priests, or such as have gone to kiss the *Pope's* Toe, and imbibed *ultramountain* Principles. *Note*, A particular Clause to exclude all Jesuits, as Lovers of the stronger Arguments of Gun-Powder and Dagger, and Friends of Equivocation, mental Reservation, Lying and Hypocrisy.

IV. Whereas several thinking Papists resent their being incumber'd by a Crowd of unnecessary Priest and Fryars, it may be presumed they may be easily induced to inform the Government of such Priest, Jesuit, or Monk, as shall dare remain in the Kingdom not tolerated; by a proper Encouragement of 10 *l*. for each Person so discovered, half thereof

thereof to be levied on any Papist who shall presume to call the said Discoverer an *Informer*. And if any such Papist do become a *sincere* Protestant, he shall have 5 *l. per Annum*, during Life for past Services.

V. That every Discoverer's Name be concealed, and his Examination received in private, against any Jesuit or Fryar, so that he give strong Circumstances of such Regular having worn his Habit, and taken his Oath to the *Pope*.

VI. That the tolerated Priests be appointed by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and the worshipful Aldermen: And in such case, those always to be prefer'd who are gouty, unweildy, illiterate, and have the least share of Language and common Sense; more particularly, such as having been poor Scholars, must have received the Tinctures of Beggary and Dirt, from the want of a liberal Education. And this will prove a successful Way of bringing over vast Numbers to the Established Church.

VII. Every Priest shall be distinguished by a Band and a ragged Riding-Coat; and lest he should be a further Incumbrance, every Parishioner shall allow him Three-half-pence, *Sterling, per Week*, estated Men, or such as have great Titles, excepted.

VIII. That the Priests do enter into an Association to procure a Dispensation for Liberty to make a Sermon on every Lord's Day, not in *Latin*, as is usually done, but in the vulgar Tongue, that so the People may be led out of their Ignorance, and learn some Principles of Morality.. And whereas the greater part of Robberies, Petty-Larcenies, and other small Thefts are committed by the People of the Popish Perswasion, who make up the Bulk of the Vulgar; such Priests so allowed, shall be deem'd unworthy

unworthy of the Government's Indulgence. unless they become responsible for all, or the greater part of such Goods, which for the most it is in their Power to have returned.

IX. If any Priest unregistered, any Monk, Fryar, Jesuit, or Nun, be found in the Kingdom after the 25th of *March*, such Priest, Monk, &c. shall stand in the Pillory, and suffer for his Contumacy. But as it may be expected to give some Allowances to the softer Sex; there may be a Clause, That every Nun convicted be three times whipp'd about the Town, and afterwards sent to hard Labour in the Workhouse, unless the Discoverer, or other such charitable Friend do take her for his Wife, to whom he shall be married by the Parish-Minister, and bedded before proper Witnesses.

X. It is greatly to be fear'd, that the Papists now in Being may have Children, who, if they continue to behave quietly, will have the Confidence to expect a Continuance of the Favours granted to their Ancestors. I would therefore humbly offer, especially to those honourable Persons, whose Province Divinity is, whether it might not be less dangerous to the present Establishment, to allow Seminaries of poor Scholars, for the Benefit of the Sons of Mechanicks and Beggars, or other such as are fit to continue the Succession of the Priesthood, the Lessons of their Teachers to be revised by some Prelate of the Established Church, before they are given to the Pupils, that so they might be Strangers to the dangerous Principles of the more fiery Papists, which so justly lay a heavy Burthen upon our Spirits, and destroy our Peace and Security, which may possibly continue until they either be *sincerely* converted, or we sufficiently secured of their Pretension to common Christianity.

The good Consequences of this Scheme I must leave to Time, and the reasonableness of the Proposal to every judicious and good Protestant Reader, who wishes well the Interest of his Country, and would be glad to see us all of one Mind, and conspire unanimously to destroy the common Enemy. I am satisfied, the Papists will not relish all this, but we who know what is best for them, have happily the Laws and Power in our Hands to engage them to concur with us for their own Interest. Let them cry out Persecution and Oppression, and how unreasonably, let the World judge, since they breathe the Air as freely as the rest of Mankind, enjoy their Estates, and, if I may say it, by a *Deficiency* in our Laws, are suffer'd to go into Popish Countries, and indulge their Genius, still we know how necessary it will be to make Laws these Hundred Years to come against them: And amongst others, I hope one may be provided to hinder their selling their Estates, or carrying off their other Effects, lest the Nation should suffer by it. Had they now all gone off in a Body, we should be rid of about Twenty Thousand Priests and Fryars; and that this is a modest Computation, will appear, if we consider the great Number that openly declare themselves, and the others, who are far many more, Jesuits especially, that are disguised in the Shapes of Merchants, Lawyers, Physicians, Coblers, and some even with Wives and Children. But if any are suffer'd to remain, it cannot be above a Tenth Part, which Burthen being taken off the Papists, they may with Ease pay the Crown an equivalent Tax, which, at the Rate of 20 *l. per Annum*, for the Maintenance of each Priest, will amount to about Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pounds, *Sterling*. Until this is brought to bear, which would not be difficult, we must join for our common Interest

rest, and help, as far as we can, to secure the
KING and his Royal Issue, which, as it was my
Design in offering my Reflections at this Time,
will, I hope, be accepted of with the same Candour.



F I N I S.

